## Message Text

PAGE 01 PANAMA 01325 281608Z ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 PER-01 /018 W

-----063825 010009Z /75

R 281515Z FEB 78 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5876 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 1325

EO 11652: N/A TAGS: AFOP, OVIP

SUBJECT: C&R TDY SUPPORT FOR RIO

REF: STATE 048440; TELCON CAVAZOS/FON

CATHERINE CAVAZOS ARRIVING RIO DE JANEIRO SUNDAY MARCH 19, AT 1740 VIA VARIG FLT 843. PLEASE MEET AND ACCOMMODATE.

**GONZALEZ** 

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /074 W

-----104807 031646Z /23

R 022050Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5924 INFO PANCANAL USCINCSO

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 PANAMA 1425

6. UNDER LAW 4;

-- THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTORAL LAW AND CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS WILL BE COMPOSED OF THREE MAGISTRATES ELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 126 OF THE CONSTITUTION (ARTICLE 126 PROVIDES FOR THE ELECTION OF THREE MAGISTRATES FOR SEVEN-YEAR TERMS, ONE CHOSEN BY THE NACR, ONE (A LAWYER) BY THE SUPREME COURT, AND ONE BY THE EXECTUTIVE

## ORGAN);

--THE MAGISTRATES CAN HOLD NO OTHER POST EXCEPT UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR. THEY MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS EXCEPT TO VOTE NOR PRACTICE AW, BUSINESS OR HOLD ANY OTHER REMENERATIVE POSITION (ARTICLE 5);

--SEVEN SUBORDINATE AGENCIES OF THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL ARE IDENTIFIED, (ARTICLE 12) AND

--AN OFFICIAL TALLY BOARD WILL OPERATE AS AN INDEPENDENT AND COMPLEMENTARY AGENCY OF THE ELECTORAL

TRIBUNAL. THE DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD WILL

REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF SOCIETY IN ANY ELECTORAL

ISSUES BROUGHT BEFORE THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL,

EXPRESS HIS OPINION ON ANY CASE SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNAL,

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AND CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS OF ELECTORAL CRIMES AND MISDEMEANOTS (ARTICLE 22-29).

7. LAW 5 REGULATES COTING ON THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE AND UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, AND OF AN EQUAL, DIRECT AND SECRET VOTE. UNDER LAW 5:

--ANY CITIZEN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS TO HOLD THE POSITION HAS THE RIGHT TO RUN FREELY AS A CANDIDATE FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE OR ALTERNATE (ARTICLE 3).

--A CANDIDATE FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE OR ALTERNATE

CANNOT HOLD ANY OTHER POSITION OF AUTHORITY (ARTICLE 12).

--THERE CAN BE ONLY FIVE CANDIDATES FOR EACH COMMUNITY

(ARTICLE 34), AND THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL SHALL DETERMINE THE

NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS REQUISITE FOR CANDIDACY. WHEN THE NUMBER

OF APPLICANTS IS MORE THAN FIVE, THE FIVE APPLICANTS

WHO HAVE INDICIDUALLY REGISTERED THE MOST SUPPORTERS AT THE

END OF THE REGISTRATION PERIOD WILL BE SONSIDERED AF

THE CANDIDATES FOR ANY GIVEN COMMUNITY.

--THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL SHALL PREPARE BALLOTS AND DETERMINE THEIR DESIGN; THE BALLOTS SHALL BE OF DIFFERENT COLORS, SELECTED BY LOTM KARTICLES 42 AND 43).

8. THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL ISSUED DECREE NUMBER 9 ON FEBRUARY 20. WHICH SETS FORTH THE REGULATIONS FOR NOMINATIONS FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES. THE NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS NECESSARY FOR CANDIDACY VARIES FROM 5 TO 100 DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED. IN COMMUNITIES OF UP TO 100 ELECTORS, AT LEAST FIVE SUPPORTERS ARE REQUIRED; OF 101-300 ELECTORS, TEN SUPPORTERS ARE REQUIRED; OF 301-500 ELECTORS, 15 ARE REQUIRED; OF 501-1,00 ELECTORS, 25 ARE REQUIRED; OF 1,001-2,000 ELECTORS, 35 ARE REQUIRED; OF 2,001-6,000 ELECTORS, 75 ARE REQUIRED; AND IN COMMUNITIES OF MORE THAN 6,001 ELECTORS, 100 SUPPORTERS UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE REQUIRED.

9. ANOTHER LAW, ISSUED FEBRUARY 10 (LAW 6), PROVIDES FOR THE REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE FOLLOWING CAUSES: 1) VOLUNTARILY MOVING OUT OF THE COMMUNITY REPRESENTED; 2) CONVICTION FOR A CRIME; AND 3) REVOCATION OF AMNDATE. FOR REVOCATION OF THE MANDATE, A PETITION MUST BE FILED BY AT LEAST 50 PERCENT OF THE ELIGEBLE VOTERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

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